



STATE SENATOR  
**BRUCE PATTERSON**  
IN THE LOOP ★

Serving the 7th District | P.O. Box 30036 | Lansing, MI 48909  
PHONE: (517) 373-7350 | TOLL FREE: 1-866-262-7307 | FAX: (517) 373-9228  
WEB: [www.senate.michigan.gov/patterson](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/patterson) | E-MAIL: [senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov)

**Please forward to a friend!**

**Saturday, June 14th is Flag Day!**



*"The flag is the embodiment, not of sentiment, but of history"*  
*President Woodrow Wilson*

The American flag is a reminder of all the struggles that this great country has faced and has survived. Fly Old Glory proudly on Saturday, June 14th!

## Legislative News

### **Senate approves Patterson bill protecting water supply**

The Senate unanimously passed a measure protecting the water supply in the state by increasing fines from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per day for knowing violations of water permitting provisions. The bill is sponsored by Senator Patterson.

“Michigan waters should be used in a manner that protects the environment, yet allows for water to be used wisely in a variety of effective and necessary ways,” said Patterson. “My bill strengthens provisions against the misuse of water.”

Senate Bill 859 also increases fines to \$10,000 per day for intentionally causing an adverse resource impact and it provides for a civil fine up to \$1,000 per day for submitting erroneous information to the Department of Environmental Quality.

Patterson’s bill is part of a package of Senate bills unanimously approved that protect Michigan waters and adopt the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact, an agreement among the eight partner states and two provinces in the Great Lakes Basin. The compact will help protect the Great Lakes and all that they represent for Michigan’s agriculture and tourism economies and environment.

The package of bills now heads to the House for concurrence.

### **Bi-Partisan legislation introduced to spur renewable energy production**

Senator Patterson joined Senator Basham to offer legislation to stimulate the generation and use of alternative energy. Senate Bill 1339 sponsored by Senator Patterson offers sales and use tax exemptions on the purchase of alternative energy systems, including heating and cooling systems, solar panels and wind turbines.

This five-bill package encourages businesses and homeowners to purchase and use alternative energy systems. These bills will reduce utility costs and implement cleaner energy sources.

The package was referred to the Senate Finance committee for consideration.

**Patterson Introduces tax credit legislation for car purchase**

Senator Patterson introduced Senate Bill 1125 that gives taxpayers a \$250 credit toward the purchase of an energy efficient vehicle. These would include fuel cell motor vehicles, advanced lean burn technology motor vehicles, hybrid motor vehicles and alternative fuel motor vehicles.

Senator Patterson said, "This legislation encourages consumers to purchase energy efficient vehicles which are important to the state's economic future, energy stability and the health of our environment."

Senate Bill 1125 has been referred to the Senate Agriculture Committee for consideration.

**Senate approves bill to protect car owners from catalytic converter theft**

Legislation that would increase the penalty for the theft of catalytic converters on vehicles was recently approved by the Michigan Senate.

Catalytic converters are attached to vehicle exhaust systems to help filter harmful engine emissions. The number of catalytic converter thefts has recently increased due to rising prices of scrap metal. Thieves steal the devices to obtain the valuable platinum contained inside.

Under Senate Bill 1193, theft of the converters will be added to the list of felony larceny of motor vehicle parts and be punishable by up to five years in prison and/or a fine of up to \$10,000.

The measure has been sent to the House for consideration.

**Senate approves small business tax relief bill**

The state Senate passed legislation recently that will provide critical tax relief to the backbone of Michigan's economy, thousands of small businesses that have seen their tax liability skyrocket under the Michigan Business Tax.

Senate Bill 1198 expands the 1.8 percent Alternative Tax Rate for small businesses to include an additional 15,000 companies. The bill will help

businesses that have been growing and adding jobs but are now struggling due to increased tax liability under the MBT surcharge.

The legislation also encourages investment and accelerates job creation by expanding the Michigan Entrepreneurial Credit (ME-2). This business tax credit would eliminate the liability of fast-growing, innovative firms, if the company hires at least eight new employees and makes a capital investment of at least \$500,000.

The Senate Finance Committee has heard from several individuals about the need for relief, and recently established the MBT Impact Subcommittee to gather additional information. Under the current MBT structure, many Michigan small businesses have seen their business tax liability double or even quadruple.

SB 1198 now heads to the House for consideration.

#### **Senate Energy Policy and Public Utilities committee Activities**

The committee approved HB5524, HB5548 and HB5549 this week. These bills set goals for generating more power using renewable fuels, and limits how many customers utilities can lose to smaller companies. This package now heads to the full Senate.

Senator Patterson said that he supports the goals of the legislation but would offer amendments on the Senate floor to overcome concerns that he still had.

“I can’t say this will be the final product,” Senator Patterson said. “This package of bills, while it may be changed on the floor, takes us in the right direction.”

But he said efforts are needed to ensure there is new generation built in the state. “My concern has been and continues to be there’s a finite amount of capital out there,” he said.

“There are also negatives to the complete deregulation of generation that some parties sought: the open market is subject to some fairly substantial cost peaks. When that happens a lot of people are not in a position to afford electricity,” he said.

## **Useful Information**

We have all been doing it...complaining about the price of gas! Here are a few constructive ideas to hopefully make us feel a little better.

### **Check out Newt Gingrich's website**

At [www.americansolutions.com](http://www.americansolutions.com) is a petition that urges the U.S. Congress to act immediately to lower gasoline prices by authorizing the exploration of proven energy reserves to reduce our dependence on foreign energy sources from unstable countries.

Newt Gingrich says:

"As gas prices continue to increase, Congress continues to blame others while ignoring practical steps to stop the pain Americans are feeling at the pump. To lower gasoline prices and reduce our dependence on foreign oil, we need real solutions to our energy challenges."

### **Comparison shop for cheaper gas prices at:**

[www.Michigangasprices.com](http://www.Michigangasprices.com)

### **Advice from the Better Business Bureau**

Be wary of miracle gas-saving devices that promise increased gas mileage. Not many products have been proven to be effective, and some devices can cause serious damage to your automobile's engine.

There are numerous low-cost and no-cost steps you can take to conserve gas:

- 1) Choose the right octane for your car.
- 2) Keep your engine maintained according to the manufacturers recommendations.
- 3) Drive within the posted speed limits.

### **SEMCOG RideShare program**

RideShare is a free carpool and vanpool matching service that links commuters traveling into or within Southeast Michigan for work. Since 1980, RideShare has assisted more than 100,000 area carpoolers.

Benefits of RideShare:

- 1) Save money on fuel and other vehicle operating costs
- 2) Have a more predictable and productive commute
- 3) Help reduce traffic congestion
- 4) Improve air quality

If you are interested, check out this website for more details:

[www.semcog.org/RideShare.aspx](http://www.semcog.org/RideShare.aspx)

## *Around the District*

### Farmers Markets

**Belleville Farmer's Market** - Saturdays through October

8:30am to 2:30pm

Victory Park at East Huron River Drive and Liberty Street

**Grosse Ile Farmer's Market** -

June 28th, July 26th, August 23rd, September 27th and October 25th

9:00am to 1:00pm

East end of Macomb Street in the Township parking lot

**Northville Farmer's Market** - Thursdays through October

8:00am to 3:00pm

Parking lot at the corner of 7 Mile and Center Street

For more information, call (248) 349-7640

**Plymouth Farmers Market** - Saturdays through October

7:30am to 12:30pm

"The Gathering" across from Kellogg Park next to the Penn Theater  
For more information, call (734) 453-1540

## ***District Events***

### **Seventh Senate District Office Hours**

#### **June 13th**

11:00am to 1:00pm  
Plymouth District Library  
223 S. Main Street

#### **June 27th**

11:00am to 1:00pm  
Sumpter Township Hall  
23480 Sumpter Road

### **Contact Information**

Thank you for your interest in our current state issues. If you would like to receive future updates via email, please contact my office at [senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov) You can also visit me in my Lansing office at 505 Farnum Building, just across S. Capitol Avenue from the state Capitol; or you can send me mail at P. O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909. Telephone (517) 373-7350 or (866) 262-7307; fax (517) 373-9228. I want to hear from you! Visit [www.senatorbrucepatterson.com](http://www.senatorbrucepatterson.com)

If you would like to not receive any future emails, simply reply to this message with the word "remove" in the body of the message. Thank you!